

## Report back to The Funding Network

### 1. Name of your organisation and date funded by TFN:

Street Soccer NI—funded 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015

### 2. What was the project you sought funding for from TFN?

What are its aims and objectives? Have these changed since receiving TFN funding?

Street Soccer Academy - Street Soccer NI uses the power of football to inspire homeless people to change their lives. The project builds employability and support around football activities. The new project Street Soccer Academy will directly reach 10-15 people each week. All participants will be linked in to employability support aiming at inclusion in volunteering, education, and employment.

Since receiving the money from TFN our goals and objectives are still the same.

### 3. Were you able to do this work as you described it in your application and presentation?

Yes

What evidence do you have for the success or failure of the funded project?

Our objectives were met as we not only reached 10-15 people a week but sometimes we had over 20 people attending. We had regular employment officers attending the project helping people get ready for work and give them advice on work available. Some of the regular players attending the academy are now in full time work.

Our number of volunteers has increased over the last year thanks to the Academy. We have regular players helping volunteer at Street Soccer with coaching, building our portable pitch and taking it down, support at events, managing kit, speaking at events and with other media opportunities and more.

We also managed to buy equipment and tracksuits for regular participants which made them feel more part of the team and helped people who didn't have their own boots etc to be involved.

### 4. If you were not able, please explain what happened and why?

Can you quantify any changes? Eg ...expanding number of employees, number of projects, geographical scope.

N/A

### 5. Can you measure, assess or describe the change that happened as a result of this work?

What actual change did the funded project generate? What proportion of the project/work did TFN fund (eg all/x%)?

We believe around 50 people have benefited from attending the academy throughout the year. We have a list of the positive outcomes (below) taken from the HWC report showing the outcomes from being involved in the academy and being selected for the Homeless World Cup team. 6 players from the list below are regular Street Soccer Academy attendees.

#### OUTCOMES OF HOMELES WORLD CUP 2016 TEAM

- All 8 players are linked in with housing professionals and are being supported to gain their own home. 3 players have their own home now; the others are staying in hostels or with

friends and are working towards getting their own home which we expect them to achieve within the coming months.

- All 8 players have participated in employability support including CV building, interview skills, and job searching/applications. 2 players have acquired full time employment.
- All 8 players are highly motivated and have plans for the future; this includes acquiring full time work, a home, travelling, etc.
- All 8 players have improved health and fitness and will continue to engage in football; 3 players are playing on 11-a-side teams.
- 1 player was offered trials with Glentoran FC.
- 5 players are engaged in volunteering.
- 2 players have begun their IFA coaching badges.
- Zero players have been involved in criminal activity.
- All players have received support around personal finance, addictions, mental health, motivation and more.
- 7 players are now part of our regular football programmes; this provides friendship and support for people who may otherwise become isolated.

We also received money from an organisation DCAL which helped pay for a trip to Scotland to play a similar project over there a friendly match. For the two day trip we selected 13 people from the Street Soccer Academy to attend and each person did a support plan with us to identify needs and risks and how we can help them achieve their goals. As a condition to be on the trip all players out of work had to attend a meeting with an employment mentor to discuss employment options, volunteering and training. The trip to Scotland was a great success and a great reward for those taking part regularly in the academy. A number of the players from the academy now help volunteer at Street Soccer.

**6. As a result of presenting at TFN, did you experience any of the following;**

New subscribers to your mailing list

No

New volunteers to your organisation

No

Further funding from individual donors

No

Further funding from institutional funders

No

An introduction that benefited your organisation (e.g. to an individual, business or other organisation)

Other benefit (please describe)

Due to funding from TFN we were able to start the Street Soccer Academy and were able to pull in other funding from Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure and Building Community and Pharmacy Partnerships. At present we are funded by BCPP and have established a good partnership their which will sustain our project for years to come.

Due to Funding from TFN we were also able to apply for further TFN funding in London this year for our new women’s project. We were successful in obtaining over £14,000 towards the project.

Funding from TFN also strengthened our partnership with Community Foundation NI who are keen to support us in a bigger way now.

**7. Could you give us an estimate of how many people have been reached by the TFN funded project/work and by how much?**

We believe around 50 people have benefited from attending the academy throughout the year.

**8. Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of funding from TFN?**

**Curtis Bennot:** A regular player in the academy was involved in crime and anti social behaviour. He states he was arrested 4 weekends in a row. Through joining Street Soccer Academy there has been a big change in his life as he has become one of our most committed members. Curtis has maintained his own home for over a year now thanks to the tenancy support he gets through Street Soccer. Through his commitment and good behaviour Curtis was the first player selected for the NI team heading to Bulgaria in May 2017 to play in the European Tournament. Curtis is also a volunteer with Street Soccer NI.

**Martin Methven:** Another regular player arrived here from Scotland and ended up in a few homeless hostels and got in trouble with police for assaulting someone. Since joining the project last year Martin was supported to find his own house and is linked in with our tenancy support service to help him maintain his house. He was also linked in with our employment service and recently gained full time employment in Tesco. Martin was selected for the Homeless World Cup team that played in the Glasgow World Cup in July were they finished 13<sup>th</sup> overall, our highest position yet. He is also now a volunteer for Street Soccer NI.

**9. Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any significant change(s) which our donors would be interested to know about (these changes do not need to be related to the experience of presenting at TFN).**

Since presenting at TFN we now have more projects. We have a project in North Belfast which reaches around 20 people a week. We also just started our first women's project and we received money from TFN recently for this. We are also in the process of starting a project for people with learning difficulties and have received funding from Belfast Trust for this. We also received funding from NIHE to cover a fulltime salary for a coordinator to develop our project all year round.

**10. Do you have any other comments regarding TFN funding?**

No

**11. Can you please include any relevant photos or clips that may relate to the project.**



Pic from Academy





Pic from Academy classroom



Pic of Academy 11 a-side team



Pic of Homeless World Cup team in Glasgow 2016. 6 players from academy in team





Academy attending a 2 day trip to visit Street Soccer Scotland and play them a 11-aside match